

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6256

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TEHRAN 30 JUN FROM JIDDA REPEATED SECSTATE

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4721

PASS: UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON MEETING WITH MINSTATE

ABA AL-KHAYL: JOINT COMMISSIONS

REF: STATE 153448

1. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON HAD FRIENDLY AND USEFUL MEETING WITH MINSTATE FINANCE ABA AL-KHAYL SUNDAY, JUNE 29. MR ROBINSON FIRST COVERED SAUDI INVESTMENTS IN U.S. AND ENERGY FUND, AS MENTIONED IN SEPTTEL (QURAISHI CONVERSATION), THEN DISCUSSED EMERGENCY AID TO EGYPT (SEPTTEL).

2. FOLLOWING THESE EXCHANGES, MR. POATS DESCRIBED PROSPECTIVE USG ROLE IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONTAINED IN REFTTEL. HE TOLD ABA AL-KHAYL WE SEE THREE AREAS FOR U.S. INVOLVEMENT:

(A) SHORT TERM EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (SUCH AS IN RAYADH ELECTRIFICATION);

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(B) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT; AND

(C) LONG RANGE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

WITH REGARD TO PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR, THERE WERE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE USG COULD ASSIST THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT--THROUGH ITS CONTACTS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EXPERT PERSONNEL. MR. POATS MENTIONED, FOR INSTANCE, U.S. EXPERTS COULD BE PROVIDED TO SAG MINISTRIES TO WORK ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER WITH SAUDI COUNTER-PARTS. ABA AL-KHAYL AGREED THAT THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AND REACH AN AGREEMENT. HE HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITH HIS STAFF. HE DID WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS STILL HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF THIS APPROACH. ABA AL-KHAYL ADDED HE WOULD GIVE THE MATTER FURTHER STUDY--HE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF BUDGET PREPARATION RIGHT NOW--AND GIVE US HIS OPINION. MR. POATS PROMISED TO FURNISH THE MINISTER WITH A BRIEF WRITTEN SUMMARY OF OUR VIEWS ON HOW THE USG COULD BEST ASSIST THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. SIGNED HORAN UNQUOTE.

HELMS

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